

Course Description:

This course focuses on the structure of math and the relationships between numerical, graphical, and algebraic forms. The exploration of polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions allows students to extend their knowledge and understanding of the concept of functions and their inverses. The focus on trigonometry in the second half of the course includes an extensive study of graphs, equations, identities, and applications. Graphing calculators are used extensively to support analytic methods and to give students the visual representations that nurture an intuitive understanding. *Students successfully completing this course may advance to CP Calculus, CP Statistics, or AP Statistics.*

Text: *Pre-Calculus with Limits* (Houghton Mifflin, 2008).

Required Supplies:

Students must have a pencil, eraser, paper, textbook, a graphing calculator or other graphing utility and notebook at every class meeting.

Assessment:

Letter grades are earned according to the school-wide grading scale in the student handbook. Percentages are calculated from the following categories:

- Daily work, Group work, Projects, and Homework - 25%
- Reading Quizzes, Notes Quizzes, Content Quizzes - 15%
- Tests - 60%

The midterm exam counts one-third of the midterm grade. At the end of the term, the average of the final and midterm exams together count one-third of the final grade for the course.

Classwork and Homework Expectations:

All work must be completed in pencil, work submitted in ink will not be accepted.

Homework should be neat, free of stains, scribbles, and especially notebook fringes.

Late work is unacceptable and will result in a 20% deduction if turned in prior to 7:45am the morning after it was due, work turned in after the 7:45am deadline will receive 0%.

Work assigned or collected when a student is absent is due by the second day following the student's return to class without penalty. Students are responsible for all work missed immediately upon return for pre-planned absences (field trips, sports, family vacations, etc.)

Tests are weighted heavily in this course to prepare students for high stakes testing which has become a reality in our society. Any option given students to improve a test grade, usually corrections or retake exams, will have a maximum possible score of 89.99%. Quizzes and homework grades cannot be made-up.

Student Expectations:

Students are expected to take responsibility for their own learning in this course. This includes being attentive and involved in classroom activities, completing all homework assigned in a timely fashion, getting assistance with difficult problems, asking questions, making arrangements to make-up missed classes and making up the work assigned on any day absent. Attendance for the entire class is important. Students must be seated by the time the bell rings to start class and will be dismissed by the instructor near the time of the bell concluding class. Students are not to pack up early. Students may be issued passes out for emergency situations but are expected to keep the number of passes out to a minimum. Cell phone use is prohibited. Cell phones must be powered off and out of sight if brought into the classroom unless students have prior permission from the instructor.

A note to parents:

Mathematics, especially at this level, can be difficult for many students. As parents, the best help you can give your student is to make sure they are in attendance and prepared for class every day and make sure they are keeping up with the pace of the course on a daily basis. Especially in the block schedule, one missed day of class or one lesson with a lot of unresolved confusion is a very big challenge to overcome. Students must be diligent in keeping up with the pace of the course. I do not believe in extra credit. Students who have extra time should devote that time to studying and working additional problems from the current topics. As parents, you do, however, have this one opportunity to give your student a bonus: if you write and circle the number four behind your signature below, I will drop your student's lowest completed homework or quiz score in the first marking period. Mr. Bremel is available most days after school or mornings by appointment if the curriculum becomes particularly challenging. Please contact me immediately via email pbremel@burrburton.org if you have a concern about the course.

Printed Student Name: _____

By signing below I am indicating that I have read and understand the course expectations,

Student signature: _____ Date _____

Parent signature: _____ Date _____